



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

September 15, 2003

A Monthly Update of Current Events and Happenings within St. Lucie County

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Linette Trabulsi, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791, 772.462.2131 Fax, Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Ground Breaking Ceremony Set for the Walton Road Annex Building

There will be a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Walton Road Annex Building on Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of Walton Road and City Center Drive in Port St. Lucie. Construction is set to begin in late September 2003 for the \$4.1 million project. The architect for the project is REG Architects, Inc. and the contractor is Paul Jacquin and Sons. The tenants for the new 25,000 square feet building include the Tax Collector's Office, the Supervisor of Elections, the Clerk of the Court, Property Appraiser's Office, the Agriculture Extension Office and others.

New Downtown Fort Pierce Clerk of Court Building Architect Approved

An agreement between the County and Edlund, Dritenbas, Binkley Architects and Associates, P.A. was set for the design of a four story, 57,000 square feet masonry building to house the employees of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Commissioners requested that the entire renovation of the existing courthouse be included with the design. The new building will include a street level plaza suitable for retail and restaurant facilities. Construction of the project is set to begin July 2004.

Airport Receives FAA Grant

The St. Lucie County International Airport received a grant in the amount of \$1,150,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration for the rehabilitation of runway 14/32 and for the preparation of the benefit/cost analysis for the proposed parallel runway. Work is expected to begin on the runway project in early 2004.

Final Fiscal Year Budget Public Hearing

The final fiscal year 2004 Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2003 at 5:05 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Fire/EMS Impact Fee Amended

The Board of County Commissioners approved to amend the current Fire/EMS Protection Impact Fee effective October 1, 2003. The fee was originally established in response to the rapid rates of growth in the County and the expanding need to serve that new growth with fire and EMS protection services. The fee was adjusted from \$280 (for a single family home) to \$288.

Dog-Friendly Beach Approved

The Board of County Commissioners approved the first dog-friendly beach in St. Lucie County. Starting on October 15, dogs will be allowed on the southernmost beach in the County, Walton Rocks Beach, with a few rules. Although no leashes are required, owners must keep the dogs under control and must "pick up" after the dogs. Owners are also only allowed to bring a maximum of 3 dogs.

County Administration Building to Get Façade Improvement

The St. Lucie County Administration Building will undergo major architectural façade improvements and an addition to the west side of the building, as well as the addition of a 2nd floor over the Tax Collector's Office. Construction is set to begin in October 2003. The two-story, 9,300 square feet project will cost \$2.1 million dollars. The architect is Edlund, Dritenbas, Binkley Architects and Associates, P.A. and the contractor is Barth Construction, Inc.

Indrio Road and Kings Highway Sidewalk Design and Permitting Contract Signed

St. Lucie County Public Works Department will contract with Inwood Consulting Engineers, Inc. for professional engineering services related to roadway and intersection design for a sidewalk on Indrio Road and Kings Highway to allow access to the Winn Dixie Shopping Center from western Lakewood Park via the existing pedestrian crossing.

Sheraton Plaza Preserve Purchased

In partnership with the Florida Communities Trust, St. Lucie County purchased the Sheraton Plaza Preserve in Fort Pierce with a 50% match of \$36,000 (total cost \$72,000). The property was acquired with money from the Environmentally Significant Land Fund.

Parks and Recreation Staff Members Honored

Several members of the Parks and Recreation staff were recently given the 2003 Florida State League Award for their efforts in various aspects of maintaining the Mets Stadium. Those employees are: Tommy Bowes, Stadium Superintendent; Stadium Crew—Jay Wooten, Dave Cundiff and Edward Powers; and Field Crew—Ronald Sheldon, Billy Gaylord, Jeffrey Gauze, Randall Mitchell, Christopher Swartzbaugh and Michael Messina.

Family Halloween Event Scheduled at the Oxbow Eco-Center

The Oxbow Eco-Center's first annual Halloween event, "The Haunting of the Oxbow," is approaching quickly! Mark your calendars for this "creepy" event on Saturday, October 25th from 2:00–5:00 p.m. This event is a family-oriented, nature-themed afternoon of fun. It will include games, candy, pumpkin carving and a delightfully spooky "haunted trail!" Don't forget the other great events happening every month at the Oxbow: Nature for Families, Brown Bag Luncheon Series as well as Canoe and Kayak River Tours. Call 785-5833 for more information.

Library Events Scheduled

Great Expectations Book Club: Wednesday, Sept. 17, *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo, Fort Pierce Yacht Club, 700 N. Indian River Drive.

Fort Pierce Writers Group: Friday, Sept. 19, 1:00-4:30 p.m., Fort Pierce Library Meeting room, 101 Melody Lane.

Thirty-two Men Chess Club: Learn the basics or play with the pros, Tuesday, Sept. 16th @ 6:30 p.m., Fort Pierce Library Meeting room, 101 Melody Lane.

Featured Artist: Roger Gardner: Hand Painted Ceramic Tile Muralist, Thursday, Sept. 18th @ 2:00 p.m., Fort Pierce Library Meeting room, 101 Melody Lane.

September 21-27 Banned Books Week

- ⇒ Display of commonly challenged literary classics/Morningside Branch
- ⇒ Monday, Sept. 22nd @ 2:00 p.m., *Fahrenheit 451*/Fort Pierce Library
- ⇒ Tuesday, Sept. 23rd @ 5:30 p.m., *Fahrenheit 451*/Hurstons Branch
- ⇒ Friday, Sept. 26th @ 4:00 p.m., Harry Potter Book Discussion/Fort Pierce – Reservations required.

For more information, please call Beverly Klemenc at 462-2787.

Children's Programs at the Fort Pierce Main Library

After School Fun, Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Pre-K Jamboree, Wednesdays from 1:00-1:45 p.m.; Toddler Time, Fridays from 10:00-10:30 a.m. Call Ms. Sally at 462-2812 for more information.

SLCTV Adding Programming—Operation: Progress St. Lucie

SLCTV is now hosting a weekly program called *Operation: Progress St. Lucie*. The program airs before Commission meetings and highlights projects from St. Lucie County's Capital Projects Construction Program.

John Bruhn, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 1 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3 • Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Cliff Barnes, District 5

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